Setting up of National Transport Safety Board and National Air Safety Board

320. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Transport Safety Board and a National Air Safety Board to give impetus to air safety in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a National Transport Safety Board and/or a National Air Safety Board. However, appointment of an eminent Civil Aviation expert to comprehensively re-appraise the legal framework and operative systems relating to Air Safety is under consideration of the Government.

Loss to Indian Airlines due to pilots' agitation and strike

321. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative loss sustained by the Indian Airlines during the last year and this year on account of pilots' agitation and resultant strike;

(b) whether a large number of Indian Airlines pilots have either left IA or sought for voluntary retirement to join the private air taxi operators;

(c) whether Government are considering any measures to stop this large — scale exodus of pilots; if so, the details in this regard;

(d) what is the approximate expenditure incurred by the Indian Airlines on the training of a pilot, after he joins the Airlines; and

(e) what measures Government are taking to boost its sagging image not only to lure fleeing passengers but also to cope with the stiff competition posed by private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No loss was suffered by Indian Airlines in the year 1993-94 on account of pilots' agitation/strike. During the year 1994-95 (as on date), Indian Airlines suffered a net loss of Rs. 1.56 crores due to pilots' reporting sick en masse.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the exact number of the pilot who joined private airlines/air taxi operators is not known, as none of them expressed such an intention in their resignation letters.

(c) The following steps have been taken to check exodus of pilots from Indian Airlines:—

(i) Private airlines/air taxi operators have been directed not to employ any employee of the national carriers without a 'No Objection Certificate' from the previous employer.

(ii) Notice period for resigning from the service of Indian Airlines increased to six months.

(iii) Bond amount for pilots increased.

(iv) Two settlements on Flight Duty Time Limitations and Pro-